



U.S. Department of Justice

***United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas***

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**POSTAL OFFICIAL SENTENCED FOR STEALING MONEY
FROM CHARLES CAPPS MINISTRIES**

Little Rock - Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced the sentencing of Andre Ben, age 37, of Sherwood, Arkansas. Chief United States District Judge J. Leon Holmes pronounced a sentence of five months incarceration and three years of supervised release of which 5 months are to be home detention with electronic monitoring. Ben was also ordered to pay Charles Capps Ministries \$36,932 in restitution and \$70 to the U.S. Postal Service in restitution. Ben is to report to the Bureau of Prisons on July 6, 2009.

On January 29, 2009, Ben pled guilty to one count of theft of mail by a postal employee. According to the Information, Ben served as the Acting Officer-in-Charge of the England, Arkansas Post Office from November 2006 until May 2008. While in that position, Ben stole cash and over 90 money orders from the United States Mail that was intended for Charles Capps Ministries. Ben then converted those funds for his own use and benefit. At sentencing today, Judge Holmes found that Ben took \$37,432 from the ministry during a 19 month period. Ben previously returned \$500 to the ministry.

“We depend on the postal workers’ integrity to safely process and deliver our mail. Ben’s theft undermined the United States Postal Service, those who worked under his supervision and the citizens he served. His sentence today was given as a deterrent to others, be they postal employees or others, who might think there is no consequence to their actions,” stated Duke. She added, “Our Office and the Office of Inspector General for the Postal Service are committed to

aggressively investigating and prosecuting those individuals who abuse their positions of public trust.”

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Service - Office of the Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Karen Whatley prosecuted the case for the United States.

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